

Clark County Public Facilities District

Informational Bulletin – August 2003

The Clark County Public Facilities District (PFD) was formed on July 30, 2002 for the purpose of participating in the study, planning, and possible development of a “regional center” that would promote tourism. Generally, a regional center is a convention, conference, or special events center, and its related parking facilities.

The PFD was formed in order to retain a portion of state sales tax dollars for use in our local region. A PFD can retain 0.033 percent (i.e., 33¢ of every \$1,000) of the state sales tax to help pay for a regional center, so long as the regional center is valued at \$10 million or more. Because this is a “credit” that goes to the local jurisdiction from the state’s portion of the sales tax, the total sales tax amount paid by consumers is not increased. In other words, we get to keep a portion of the state’s sales tax here in Clark County instead of letting it all go to Olympia ... and it doesn’t cost us any extra tax money!

The county PFD has identified two potential projects to which the sales tax credit revenue may be applied, but neither project has as yet been selected. One project would be a rebuild and expansion of the Fairgrounds (to include a new sports complex), and the other would be construction of a conference center in downtown Vancouver. The Master Plan for the Fairgrounds project is still being finalized, but you can find more information on the conference center project by clicking [here](#). Both of these projects are critical to boosting tourism and economic development within the county.

The PFD must select one or both projects in the near future. The reason is that the credit on the State sales tax money will not be available if the PFD doesn’t begin the project by January 1, 2004. This means there is a need for speed, and it also places an important emphasis on public involvement and input to ensure the decision meets the region’s needs and interests.

For further information about the PFD please contact Kelly Sills in the Board of Commissioners’ office at 360/397-2232, or you can e-mail him directly at kelly.sills@clark.wa.gov.